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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: MARR PREL CA NATO

SUBJECT: CANADA RATIFIES NATO ENLARGEMENT

REF: USNATO 387

(U) Two days after NATO signed the protocols on accession of the seven new members to NATO (reftel), Canada became the first country to ratify the protocols. Prime Minister Chretien announced the ratification on March 28, saying that the new members bring to NATO "additional capabilities, extended geographical reach and greater security for the future." COMMENT: GoC support for the seven was approved by Cabinet in July 2002, and reaffirmed by Cabinet in preparation for the NATO signing. Expansion has been uncontroversial here, and Canadian ratification was almost a formality. END COMMENT.

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